

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-04 L-02 H-01 NEAE-00

RSC-01 /022 W

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P 211100Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4418

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

PASS LEONARD BOUDIN FROM DOLORES DONOVAN

QUOTE

1. IN DELHI SAW VERY JUNIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY HOME MINISTRY WHO WAS OF NO ASSISTANCE. ON JANUARY 16 I WROTE LETTER TO HOME SECRETARY REQUESTING APPOINTMENT AND AS YET HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY. I AM INFORMED THAT PAST PRACTICE INDICATES THERE MAY WELL BE NO REPLY. AM NOW IN CALCUTTA ATTEMPTING TO SEE BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER AND FOR WRAP-UP INTERVIEWS WITH BOYS. MY CURRENT PLANS ARE TO RETURN TO DELHI JANUARY 25 FOR LAST SHOT AT HOME MINISTRY THEN DEPART FOR NEW YORK JANUARY 29.

2. PROBLEMS CREATED BY CONTEMPT PETITION AGAINST BHOSE STILL UNRESOLVED AND WILL NOT BE RESOLVED FOR ANOTHER MONTH MINIMUM. HAVE JUST LEARNED HE STANDS ACCUSED OF CONSPIRING WITH ME, BOUDIN AND RUTH FLETCHER TO VIOLATE THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT BY CONVEYING OFFICIAL SECRETS TO A FOREIGN AGENT. LATEST DEVELOPMENT AS OF JANUARY 18 IS UNILATERAL CANCELLATION BY POLICE OF HIS ACCESS TO BOYS. I HAVE TOLD BHOSE THAT IF IT APPEARS THAT CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS PER SE WILL DELAY TRIAL MORE THAN ONE MONTH AND IF HIS INTERVIEWING RIGHTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT RESTORED ASAP, WE WILL HAVE TO RETAIN NEW LAWYER.

BHOSE AGREES AND WITH HIS ASSISTANCE I WILL SELECT BEFORE LEAVING CALCUTTA LAWYER WHO WILL REPLACE HIM SHOULD REPLACEMENT BECOME NECESSARY. THIS PROCESS MAY WELL DELAY MY RETURN TO NEW YORK.

3. OUT OF CONCERN FOR MY OWN SAFETY I REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT RPT NOT ISSUE ANY PRESS STORIES ON THIS CASE UNTIL I AM OUT OF INDIA.

4. AS OF LAST NIGHT BHOSE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO HOUSE BOYS EVEN IF HE WITHDRAWS FROM CASE.

5. FURTHER POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR DELAY ARISE FROM SUGGESTION THAT I SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE MRS. GANDHI. FACTORS AGAINST SUCH ATTEMPT ARE: 1) CHANCES NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD AND ATTEMPT WILL INVOLVE MINIMUM ONE ADDITIONAL WEEK INDIA AND HENCE MORE MONEY; 2) I AM NOT AT THIS TIME IN POSITION TO OFFER WRITTEN CONFESSION; 3) BOUDIN OR RUTH FLETCHER WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF SEEING HER THAN I; 4) IF I AM REFUSED INTERVIEW NOW IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR ONE OF US TO SEE HER WHEN TRIAL IS OVER. FACTORS IN FAVOR OF SUCH ATTEMPT ARE: 1) THERE MAY NEVER AGAIN BE ENOUGH MONEY FOR ONE OF US TO COME TO INDIA AND TRY TO SEE HER; 2) EVERYTHING ELSE APPEARS AT THIS POINT TO HAVE FAILED.

6. PLEASE ADVISE RE MRS. GANDHI ASAP THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF STATE CHANNELS.

7. CRUCIAL THAT BOUDIN SEE SAXBE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE.

8. HARCOS REQUESTS THAT HIS FAMILY TAKE OUT LOAN FOR LEGAL FEES AS THEY SUGGESTED IN ONE OF THEIR LETTERS TO HIM. HE WILL REPAY.

9. MY PARTNER ADVISES SHE HAS RECEIVED \$500 IN FEES FOR JANUARY FROM JOHNSON. I HAVE RECEIVED \$1100 IN EXPENSES FOR JANUARY, \$600 FLETCHER; \$500 JOHNSON. I WILL APPLY JOHNSON'S \$500 TOWARDS FEES. THIS MEANS I AM STILL OWED \$200 FEES THROUGH FEBRUARY.

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10. PLEASE ADVISE RE AIRFARE COST OF NEW YORK STOPOVER ON RETURN. DEDE UNQUOTE PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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